

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed April 22, 2008. In the office action the Examiner:

- allowed claims 28-30;
- objected to claims 3-4 and 24 for containing informalities;
- rejected claims 1, 2, 20-24 and 27 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph;
- objected to claims 9-12 and 14-17 as being dependent on rejected base claims.
- rejected claims 1-8, 13, 18-19, 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Moore et al. (US 6,618,752);
- rejected claims 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Moore et al. (US 6,618,752); and

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 1-13 and 15-38.

Overview of Changes to the Specifications and the Claims

Paragraph 0065 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 9, and 24 have been amended according to the examiners suggestion. Claim 1 has incorporated at least some of the limitations from cancelled claim 14. Claim 9 has amended to become an independent claim that includes all the limitations of the former base claim. Claim 24 has been amended to include at least some of the limitations from claim 9 and cancelled claim 14. Support for these changes can be found at least in the original claims 9 and 14 and paragraph 0077 of the application as filed.

Claims 2, 5-7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21-23, and 27 have been amended solely for the purpose of clarifying the antecedent basis for certain terms. These changes are purely cosmetic and do not change the scope of the amended claims.

Claims 3-4 and 24 were objected to by the Examiner for containing informalities. These claims have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions. It is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 26 have been amended solely for the purpose of correcting grammatical errors.

Claims 31-38 are new. Support for these additional claims can be found at least in original claims 2-8 and 14. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 20-24 and 27 as amended clarify the aspects of these claims to which the Examiner objected. In addition, claim 20, which relates to generation of the data being transmitted from the second slave to the first slave, finds support in the specification at least in paragraphs 0027, 0028, and 0029. Claim 20, as amended, states “generating said data at a generator.” As noted in the specification in at least some embodiments said generator operates independently of the master to generate data files. In at least some embodiments the master does not direct the generation of these files, only the transfer between slaves. Thus the “before” aspect of claim 20 is fully supported by the specification.

Objections to Claims 9-12 and 14-17 as Being Directed to Rejected Base Claims

In accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion, claims 9 and 14 have been made into independent claims containing all the limitations of the former base claims. The limitations of claim 14 have been added to claim 1 and the original claim 14 has been cancelled. In addition, all remaining dependent claims are now directed to at least one of the amended independent claims. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Independent Claims 1 and 38 include the limitations of original claim 14 (which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form), but with the limitations added by claim 14 now rewritten from the perspective of the master. Independent claims 9 and 24 as amended include all the limitations of claim 9 (which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form). Therefore, all the pending claims as amended are directed to subject matter indicated in the office action as being patentable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections.

U.S.C. § 103

As noted above, all the claims as amended are directed to subject matter indicated in the office action as being patentable over the cited references. As such, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-4000, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

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/ Gary S. Williams /

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